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PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 5087.304-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Noguchi et al.

Confirmation No: 9126

Serial No.: 09/371,343

Group Art Unit: 1731

Filed: August 10, 1999

Examiner: Alvo, M.

For: Method For Producing Cellulose Derivatives

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 12, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows (a marked up version pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.21 is attached hereto):

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims having the same claim numbers:

1. (Amended) A method for producing a cellulose derivative, said method comprising  
a) treating a pulp with a hemicellulase under conditions in which the hemicellulase is enzymatically active, and  
b) etherifying the treated pulp under conditions that result in etherification of cellulose molecules in the pulp.

6. (Amended.) The method of any of claims 1-4, wherein the chemical modification is methyl-etherification, ethyl-etherification, hydroxyethyl-etherification, hydroxypropyl-etherification, or carboxymethyl-etherification.